



KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

This newsletter provides updated information regarding the KCSD and your community.

FROM UP ON THE HILL

Welcome Adam Bastein as the newly appointed director to the Kensington Community Services District! On the August 13, 2026, board of directors meeting the board voted unanimously to appoint Adam Bastein to the board of directors. This seat became vacant when Director David Spath moved out of Kensington.

Adam's term is noticeably short, expiring in December 2026. Adam has signed up to run for a full four-year term in conjunction with the November election.

Please note that voters will not see in their ballot any Kensington Community Services District seats up for election. This is due to the number of candidates that signed up for the election process being the same number of vacant seats available.

Effective December 2026, the board will be reduced to seven board members which will consist of **Alexandra Aquino-Fike, Sylvia Hacaj, Dean (Rick) Artis, Daniel Levine, Danielle Madugo, Rodney Paul, and Adam Bastein.** Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month.

KCSD UPDATES

• Red Flag Parking Restrictions

New no-parking restrictions are now in effect on Westminster, Kenyon, and Purdue Avenues during declared Red Flag Days. The restrictions help ensure emergency vehicle access and allow residents to evacuate safely. New signs have been installed. Questions may be directed to the General Manager.

• General Manager Recruitment

The search for a full-time KCSD General Manager continues. Qualified candidates are scheduled to be interviewed by the Board of Directors on **August 28, 2026.**

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL

All Kensington residents are invited to a Town Hall Meeting on **Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 a.m. to noon** at the Kensington Community Center. A Zoom link will also be available at www.kpoa.net.

Presented by the Kensington Improvement Club (KIC) and the Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA), the Town Hall will include each organization's annual membership meeting and offer residents an opportunity to hear about important issues facing Kensington.

Featured speakers will include **Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, Police Chief Mike Gancasz, and Fire Chief Eric Saylor.** Incoming and returning **Kensington Community Services District Board Directors** will also be invited to share updates on topics important to the community.

Coffee and refreshments will be served. Come early, meet your representatives, and connect with neighbors. For more information, contact KICpost@gmail.com or kpoassoc@gmail.com.

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*Committed to
Keeping
Kensington
Residents
Informed*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The First Responder May Be Your Neighbor – Community Is a Verb

Laura Westphal, Kensington Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

There is a lot happening in the world, most of it competing loudly for our attention. One thing that has stayed with me lately is much closer to home: disasters and community.

We can live six feet from another human being for ten years and know almost nothing about them. We may know their car, their recycling habits and, naturally, their dog's name before we know theirs. Natural disasters tend to make that arrangement less charming. In those moments, the person who might matter most is the neighbor you only know as Sparky's owner.

That distance between neighbors felt a little less real during the recent National Night Out. During our usual evening dog walk, my husband and I came across a block party where Kensington PD had stopped in to chat with residents. There I finally met a local geophysicist I knew from K6, Kensington Area 6, our neighborhood emergency preparedness group. It was nice to meet her in the wild. We did not live on the block. Nobody cared. Within minutes we were being offered food and pulled into conversations with longtime and newer residents, different generations, backgrounds and families of all kinds. It was wonderfully ordinary and surprisingly un-awkward.

What stayed with me was how little effort it took. Community rarely announces itself. It grows in small gestures: making room, asking your name, pulling you into the conversation. That is what I mean when I say community is a verb. You introduce yourself. You check in. You notice. You show up.

When something actually goes wrong, those small connections suddenly become very practical. That is part of what drew me to CERT, or Community Emergency Response Team. It takes the same idea of knowing your neighbors and gives it some useful muscle. You learn practical, potentially lifesaving skills and how to help safely when things go wrong. Just as importantly, you become another connector in a neighborhood that can respond when professional help is stretched thin. CERT is one way to make those connections count and build a little certainty when the world feels increasingly uncertain. Start by learning Sparky's owner's name. For all you know, they may know CPR, own a radio their family mocks, and know what the heck to do while everyone else is staring at suddenly useless phones.

The first responder may be your neighbor. Someday, you may be theirs.

We cannot know what the next emergency will ask of us. We can decide whether we will face it as strangers. If community is a verb, CERT is one way to practice it. To learn more or get involved, email us at eckencert@gmail.com.

STAY INFORMED, GET INVOLVED, AND MAKE THE MOST OF FALL!

- Read your **Bayview Refuse** newsletter and mark your calendar for **Clean Up Week** and **Confidential Shredding Day**.
- Don't miss **Food Truck Nights** at the park on the second Friday of September and October.
- **Planning a gathering?** Kensington park facilities are available to rent for parties, reunions, and community get-togethers.

GET STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY



As the new school year begins, the Kensington Police Department and Kensington School remind everyone to use extra caution around students walking, biking, and traveling to and from school.

Morning and afternoon traffic can be especially busy. Drivers should slow down, stay off their phones, obey posted speed limits and parking restrictions, and allow extra travel time.

During drop-off and pick-up:

- Use designated loading areas whenever possible.
- Avoid double parking or blocking driveways.
- Watch carefully for children near crosswalks, parked cars, driveways, and intersections.
- Give bicyclists plenty of space and check blind spots before turning or opening doors.
- Always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

A few extra moments of patience can make a big difference. Thank you for helping keep Kensington students and families safe.